TONOLLI CORPORATION

SUPERFUND SITE

Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III • Information Update • September 1998

Under oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), contractors for the Tonolli Site Steering Committee (TSSC), have been working hard to clean up the former lead acid battery recycling and lead smelting facility.

The TSSC is composed of a group of companies that are potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at the Site. Over fifty (50) of these companies have signed a Consent Decree with EPA and DEP to complete the cleanup.

The TSSC hired Advanced GeoServices Corporation (AGC) to investigate and design the cleanup plan for the Site. MACTEC, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia was hired to implement the Site cleanup plans. AGC has been retained by the TSSC as the resident engineer to oversee the construction. MACTEC is also working under oversight by the EPA and EPA's contractor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Site Cleanup Continues . . .

Contaminated Waste Removed

The last several loads of sludge material and nickel/cadmium batteries were removed from the Tonolli Corporation Site for offsite recycling in early September 1998. This waste, which is high in lead content, was taken offsite for recycling at the Exide/General Battery Corporation in Reading, PA. Other batteries and pieces of lead dug up during the remedial action will also be taken to Exide for recycling.

Other Cleanup Work

Contractors are also working on the main tasks required for Site cleanup. The following is an update on the status of each of these cleanup activities.

- **Pumping and treating water currently in the onsite landfill**

All ponded water has been removed from the landfill. Wells located in the landfill are continuing to pump and remove water below the surface. This water is treated in a system designed to remove lead and other metals, and the clean water is then discharged to the Nesquehoning Creek. Storm water, from rain falling on the Site, that is collected in sumps is also being captured and treated in a separate system. To date, both systems have treated over 5 million gallons of water. Sampling results indicate that the discharged water meets the cleanup levels for lead and other metals.

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Community Briefing

EPA has scheduled a briefing to update local citizens and officials on cleanup activities at the Tonolli Site.

Tuesday, September 29, 1998
7:00 p.m.
Nesquehoning Borough Recreation Center
391 West Railroad Street
Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania

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- **Stabilizing and expanding the side slopes of the landfill**

The eastern and southern landfill side slopes have been stabilized and expanded (see pictures below). Work continues on the northern and western side slopes. A retaining wall was constructed to reinforce a portion of the southern side of the landfill. The wall was constructed by placing rock in baskets formed of a heavy galvanized metal wire coated in plastic. These rock-filled gabion baskets were then stacked to make the retaining wall. Other areas of the landfill were expanded by spreading and compacting structural soil fill.

- **Constructing a groundwater treatment trench along the southern site boundary**

Construction of the groundwater trench was completed on July 16, 1998. Progress was slowed due to large rock boulders located along the path of the trench and lead contaminated soil that was found in close proximity to the railroad spur. A section of track was removed and the soil was excavated. These delays also delayed completion of the gabion basket retaining wall.

- **Decontaminating and demolishing site buildings and tanks**

All buildings and tanks scheduled for demolition have been decontaminated and torn down. The TSSC is also removing concrete walls and floors in order to access, inspect, test and remove lead contaminated soil. Concrete is being taken to the onsite landfill for disposal. Removal of all the concrete was not included in the original plans but became necessary to access all contaminated soils. Batteries and large pieces of lead have been found under concrete in some areas. An additional area of oil contaminated soil was also recently found.

- **Excavating on site and offsite lead contaminated soil**

Excavation of soil is underway in several areas. Due to the large increase in volume of soil requiring excavation and also the larger volume of soil requiring treatment, progress has not proceeded according to the original schedule. To date, more than 50,500 cubic yards of soil have been excavated versus the original estimate of 30,500 cubic yards.

However, soil excavation and removal in certain areas, including the former garage and the residential property have been completed. These areas will be filled with clean fill and/or soil.

- **Treating excavated soil using stabilization**

Excavation of soil with greater than 10,000 mg/kg of lead is almost complete. The original estimate of the volume of this soil was 7,300 cubic yards. However,

BEFORE

Eastern landfill embankment before and after stabilizing and expanding the side slope.

AFTER

over four times this volume, approximately 31,000 cubic yards, will be treated. Treatment of this soil should be completed in September 1998.

- **Placing soil, sediment, and debris in the onsite landfill**

Soil placement in the landfill began in early May and is currently ongoing. Soil under 10,000 mg/kg is taken directly to the landfill while soil with greater than 10,000 mg/kg is placed in a stockpile, treated and then hauled to the onsite landfill.

- **Removing lead contaminated sediments from Nesquehoning Creek**

This activity is currently scheduled to begin after all other Site excavations are complete.

- **Constructing a multi-layered cap and closing the onsite landfill**

In order to provide more space in the landfill, the resident engineer recently revised the design of the landfill cap. The re-design was reviewed by the EPA, PADEP and USACE. The re-design provides for a capacity of up to 90,500 cubic yards versus the original design which provided for 60,000 cubic yards of landfill space.

The cap will be constructed after all soil and debris is placed in the landfill. A revised schedule was submitted by the TSSC to EPA on August 13, 1998. This schedule projects the cap construction to be complete in late November 1998. However, construction of the cap and other Site work is dependent on the weather. If the excavation of soil continues into October, the schedule may be delayed and construction of the cap may have to be completed in the spring. Contingency plans are being made to shut down certain or all operations if work is delayed due to severe winter weather conditions.

- **Backfilling, restoring and re-vegetating the Site**

This work is scheduled for the end of the project. Final seeding and establishing vegetation will likely be conducted in the spring/ summer of 1999.

Other Activities

The cleanup project has been challenging for all involved. Complex work has included demolishing large structures containing dust with high concentrations of lead; removing oil tanks and oil contaminated soil; and removing and disposing of asbestos and transformers. In addition, soil excavations had to proceed under railroad tracks and building foundations which were ultimately removed. Thousands of cubic yards of waste coal culm bank material was also moved to access to contaminated soil and allow construction of the landfill.

Initial air monitoring at the site indicated a high concentration of lead in the dust, particularly during the building demolition. Since that work was completed, concentrations of lead in the air have dropped. This drop is also the result of greater emphasis on dust suppression methods and modified Site procedures. □

For More Information ...

If you would like more information about the Tonolli Site, please contact one of the EPA officials below.

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Additional Site Information

Similar to a mini-reference library, an Information Repository contains technical and legal information about the Site. Any document EPA uses in making a decision about the site and its cleanup will be in this public file.

EPA will place copies of the design and construction work plans in the Information Repository as they are approved. You may review this material at the address listed below.

Nesquehoning Borough Building
114 West Catawissa Street
Nesquehoning, PA 18240

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This information is also available for review at the EPA office in Philadelphia (see address on page 3). Please contact Anna Butch at (215) 814-3157 for an appointment.

EPA is On the World Wide Web

You may also find information about the Tonolli Corporation Site, EPA Region III, Superfund, and other EPA programs and activities by visiting EPA on the World Wide Web. EPA's address is http://

www.epa.gov/region3.

INSIDE: Update on Cleanup Work at the Tonolli Superfund Site

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